United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Characterization
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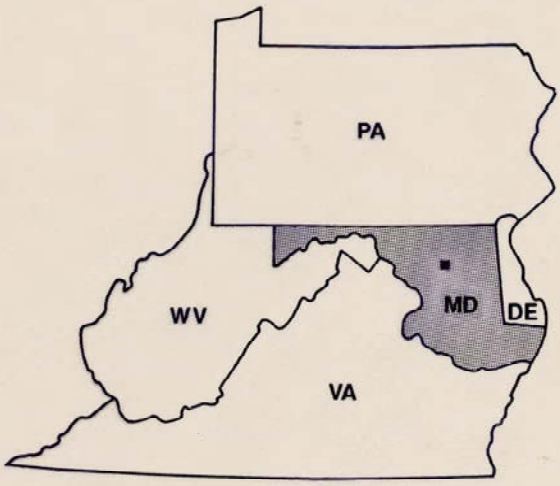
December 1996

Research and Development

EPA

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS 68TH STREET DUMP Baltimore, Maryland

EPA Region 3



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AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
68TH STREET DUMP

Baltimore County, Maryland

by

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89193-3478

NOTICE

This document has undergone a technical and quality control/assurance review and approval by personnel of the EPA/ORD Characterization Research Division at Las Vegas (CRD-LV), and is for internal Agency use and distribution only.

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an aerial photographic analysis of the 68th Street Dump in Baltimore, Maryland. The site covers approximately 125 acres and is located on the Baltimore City/Baltimore County line along Herring Run. The analysis uses eight select dates of photography spanning the time period from 1938 to 1992. This report provides remote sensing support to field investigators in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 3 Office under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program. This report documents past waste disposal activities and other environmentally-significant events at the site.

Analysis showed that dumping of fill was underway at the 68th street dump by 1953. An operational incinerator was noted in 1964 and was dismantled by 1992.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Characterization Research Division's Monitoring Sciences Branch in Las Vegas, Nevada, prepared this report for the Agency's Hazardous Waste Management Division in Region 3 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response in Washington, D.C.

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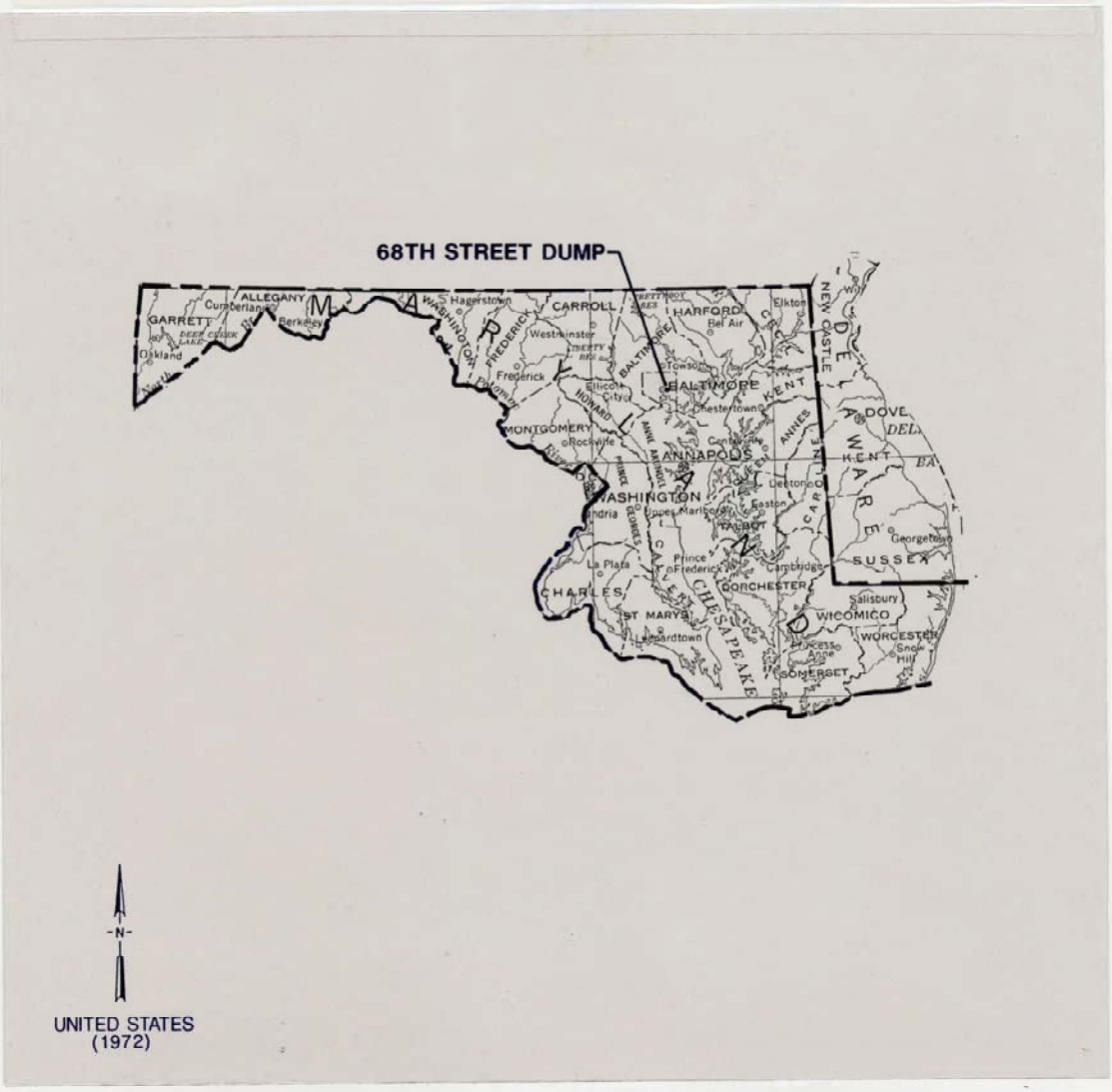

Figure 1. Study area location map, Maryland. Approximate scale 1:5,200,000.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an aerial photographic analysis of the 68th Street Dump located on the east side of Baltimore, Maryland for the time period 1938 through 1992. The study area, which occupies approximately 125 acres, is located on the Baltimore City/Baltimore County line along Herring Run. The close proximity of 68th Street Dump to the banks of Herring Run/Back River would allow surface runoff from the study area to flow directly into these natural waterways. This report provides remote sensing support to field investigators in EPA Region 3 Office under the CERCLA program. The report documents past waste disposal activities and other environmentally-significant events.

The study boundary of the 68th Street Dump is based on photo observations and does not represent a legal property line. The study boundary follows the railroad to the north, Herring Run along its west and south sides, and Redhouse Run along its eastern side.

Analysis showed that dumping of fill was underway at the 68th street dump by 1953. An operational incinerator was noted in 1964 and was dismantled by 1992.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Characterization Research Division's Monitoring Sciences Branch in Las Vegas, Nevada, prepared this report for the Agency's Hazardous Waste Management Division in Region 3 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response in Washington, D.C.

METHODOLOGY

Stereoscopic pairs of historical aerial photographs were used to perform the analysis. Stereo viewing enhances the interpretation because it allows the analyst to observe the vertical as well as horizontal spatial relationships of natural and cultural features. Stereoscopy is also an aid in distinguishing between various shapes, tones, textures, and colors that can be found within the study area.

Evidence of waste disposal is a prime consideration when conducting a hazardous waste site analysis. Leachate or seepage resulting from burial and dumping of hazardous materials might threaten existing surface or ground-water resources. Pools of unexplained liquid are routinely noted because they can indicate seepage from buried wastes and may enter drainage channels that allow contaminants to move off the site. An excellent indicator of how well hazardous materials are being handled at a site is the presence or absence of spills, spill stains, and vegetation damage. Trees and other forms of vegetation that exhibit a marked color difference from surrounding members of the same species are labeled "stressed," "damaged," or "dead" based upon the degree of noticeable variation. Vegetation is so labeled only after consideration of the season in which the photography was acquired.

Drainage analysis identifies the direction a spill or surface runoff would follow. Direction of drainage is determined from analysis of the photographs and from U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. Whenever they are available, 7.5-minute quadrangle maps (scale 1:24,000) are used to show site location and to provide geographic and topographic information. Site boundaries or areas used in this analysis were determined from observations made from aerial photographs in conjunction with collateral data supplied by Region 6 and do not necessarily denote legal property lines or ownership. Results of the analysis are shown on annotated overlays attached to the photos.

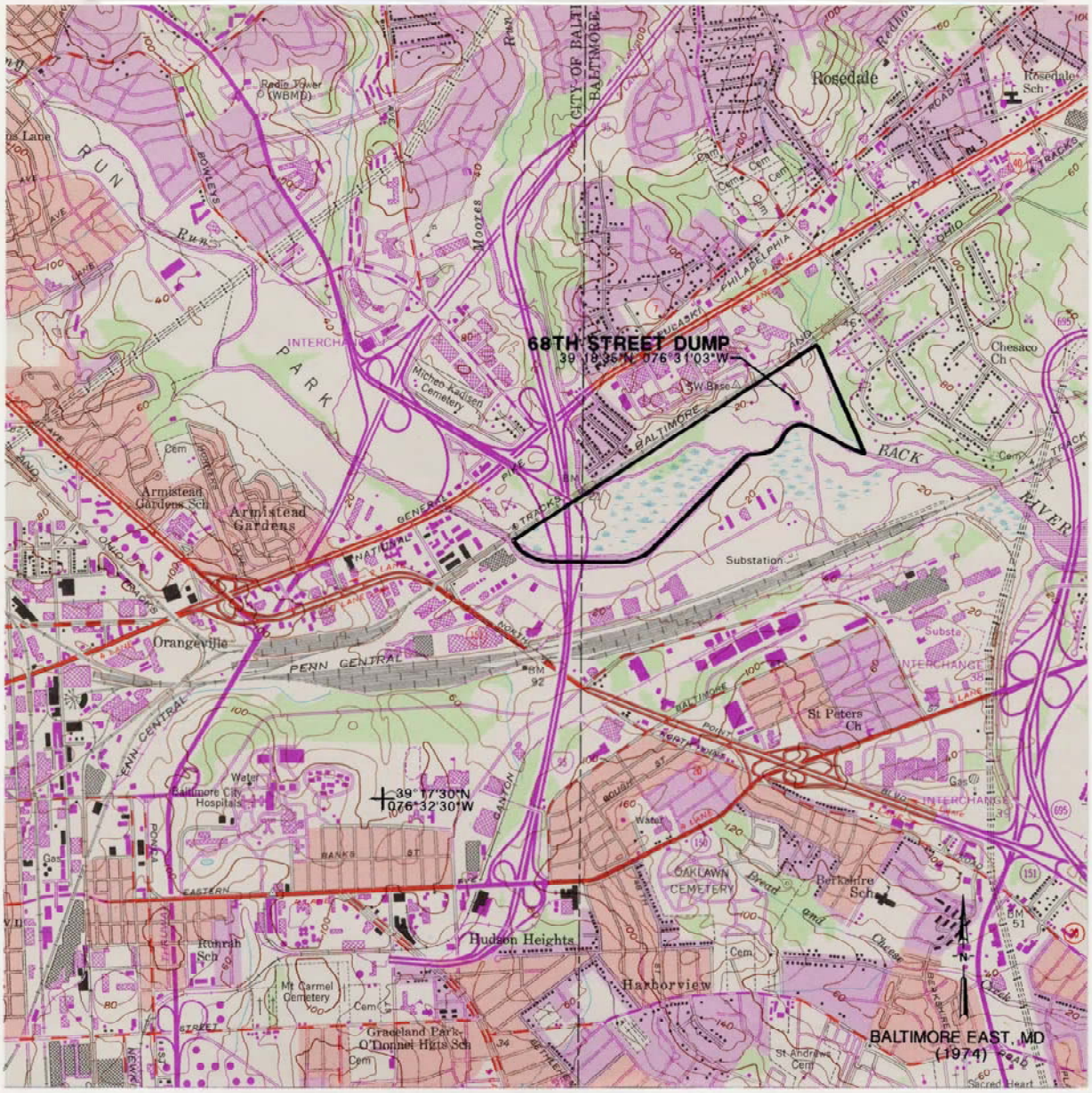

Figure 2. Local study area location map, Baltimore, Maryland. Scale 1:24,000.

ANALYSIS SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an aerial photographic analysis of the 68th Street Dump located in east Baltimore, Maryland along the Baltimore City/ Baltimore County line (Figure 2). The primary data for the analysis is eight select dates of photography from 1938, 1943, 1953, 1964, 1968, 1973, 1984 and 1992.

The photo analysis shows the west side of the site was undeveloped and covered with vegetation between 1938 and 1943. A building was present on the east side of the site in 1938 and debris had accumulated in this area. By 1953 open dumping of fill had started at the site's west side. An incinerator appeared operational by 1964 on the east side of the site. By 1968 large mounds had been deposited in the central portion of the site. By 1973 construction and earthmoving for bridges and ramps of Interstate Route 95 changed the landscape of the west end of the site. By 1984 construction of Interstate Route 95 over the west end of the site had been completed and new vegetation covered previously bare areas. The incinerator was dismantled by 1992 and additional dumping of light-toned material or fill was observed in the northeast corner of the site.

PHOTO ANALYSIS

APRIL 23, 1938 (FIGURE 3)

The 68th Street Dump is not an active waste disposal landfill at this time. The site covers undeveloped, vegetated wetland along the banks of Herring Run. Natural drainage from Herring, Moores, and Redhouse Runs flow across the study area and into Black River southeast of the site. The site is approximately 1 mile in length between the railroad bridge over Herring Run to Herring Run's confluence with Redhouse Run. The railroad along the north perimeter of the site restricts vehicle access. The only vehicle access into the site is provided by one railroad crossing.

A large building and a shed are observed at the east side of the site. A large square excavation, probably for a building foundation, is south of the large building.

INTERPRETATION CODE

BOUNDARIES AND LIMITS

- FENCED SITE BOUNDARY
- UNFENCED SITE BOUNDARY
- FENCE
- STUDY AREA

DRAINAGE

- DRAINAGE
- FLOW DIRECTION
- INDETERMINATE DRAINAGE

TRANSPORTATION/UTILITY

- VEHICLE ACCESS
- RAILWAY

SITE FEATURES

- DIKE
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- VT VERTICAL TANK
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- ST STAIN
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- TR TRENCH
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- WD WASTE DISPOSAL AREA
- WV WETLAND VEGETATION

Figure 3. 68th Street Dump, April 23, 1938. Approximate scale 1:19,000.

APRIL 25, 1943 (FIGURE 4)

The west and central portions of the site have remained undeveloped riparian wetland since 1938. The area next to the large building on the east side of the site has become littered with debris and open dumping, particularly along the western bank of Redhouse Run. The shed in this area has been removed. A new building has been constructed where an excavation was noted in 1938.

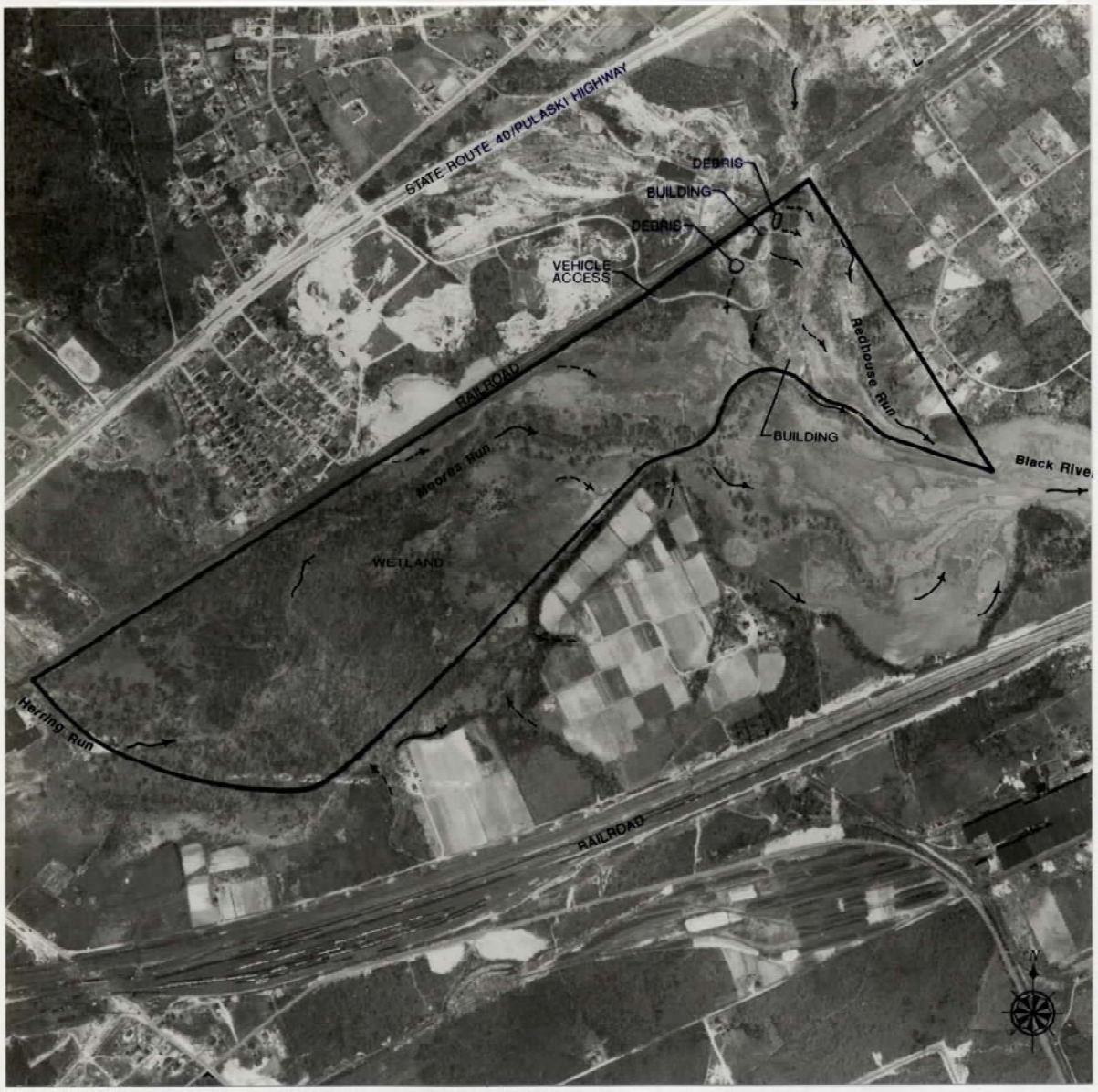

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Figure 4. 68th Street Dump, April 25, 1943. Approximate scale 1:9,650.

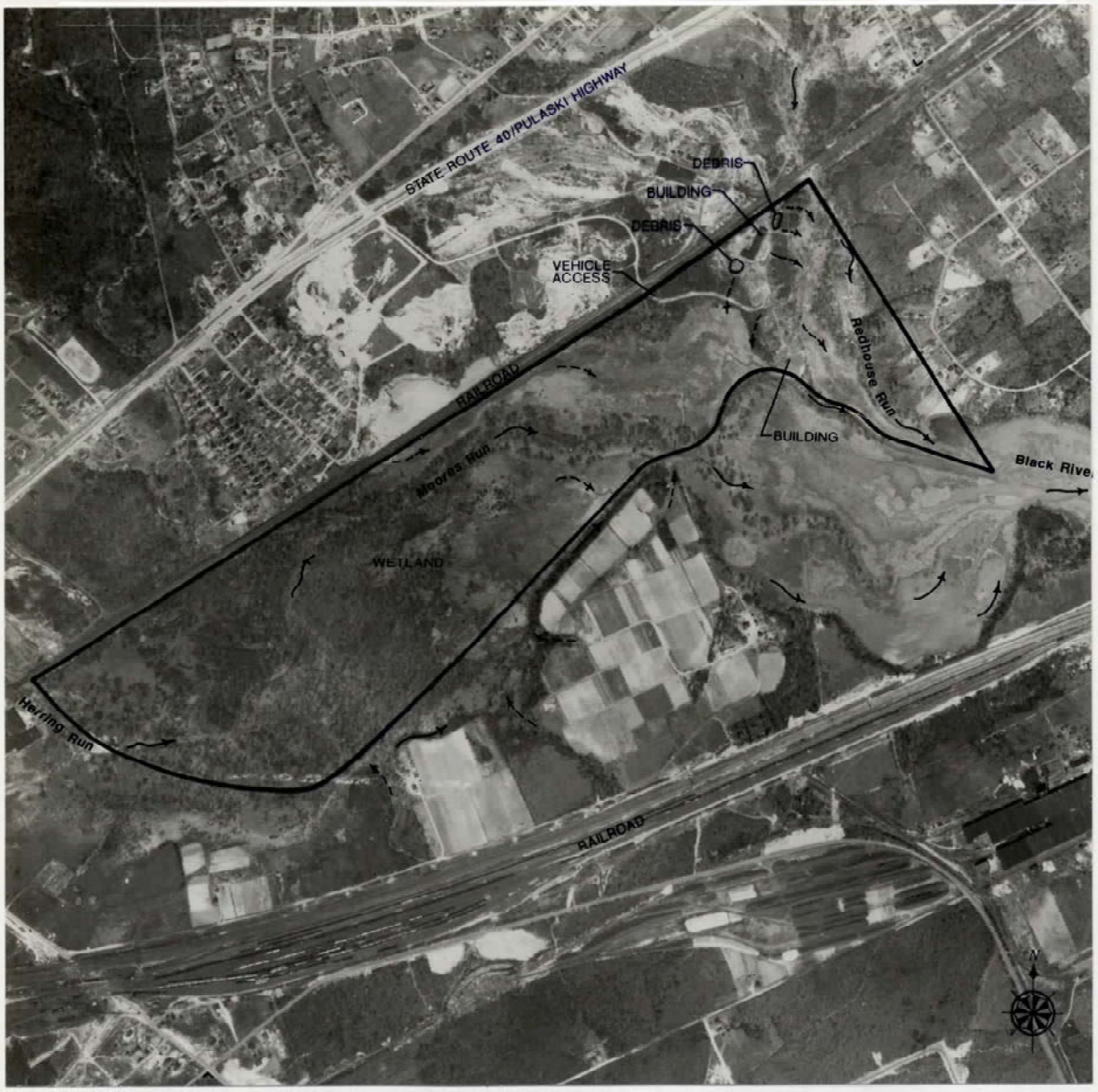

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Figure 4. 68th Street Dump, April 25, 1943. Approximate scale 1:9,650.

FEBRUARY 14, 1953 (FIGURE 5)

Open dumping of fill has started on the west end of the site where mounded material is observed (Annotations A & B). Another vehicle access, leading to an area of dumping activity at the west end of the site, has been established across the railroad. The large light-toned mound diverts the course of Herring Run away from the central area of the site (Annotation A). Vehicles are observed at both of the dump areas (Annotations A & B).

Better housekeeping practices are noted around the large building on the east side of the site because debris has been removed; however, a pile of dark-toned material remains along the east side of the building, overlooking the Redhouse Run embankment. A new building has been constructed south of the large building.

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Figure 5. 68th Street Dump, February 14, 1953. Approximate scale 1:20,500.

MAY 18, 1964 (FIGURE 6)

The site continues to be an active dump and there are now three vehicle access roads into the site. A large mound of light-toned fill and debris stands at the west end of the site (Annotation A). Newly deposited fill and probable solid waste have been added to this area and several dump trucks are present (Annotation B). No earthmoving vehicles are discerned on-site and the dumped material does not appear to be covered over with soil.

A small mound of light-toned fill and debris has been deposited in the east-central portion of the site (Annotation C). A vertical tank has been installed in this built-up area. Along the south side of this mound is a radio facility consisting of a transmitter building and antenna tower (Annotation T1) and two additional antenna towers (Annotations T2 & T3).

An incinerator building has been constructed on the east side of site. A pile of dark-toned material has been dumped adjacent to the incinerator (Annotation D). An open area along the incinerator's south side contains numerous rectangular containers. The containers are probable derelict trash receptacles.

South of the incinerator is an equipment storage yard and two other buildings. A small mound of dumped material is also in this area (Annotation E). Numerous vehicles are parked on an embankment overlooking Redhouse Run. Fill has been dumped on this side of the embankment to build up the parking area (Annotation G).

The large building north of the incinerator is probable a storage building. The west bank of Redhouse Run, east of the building, has received both fill and possible debris (Annotation F). There are no discernible trucks or earthmoving vehicles observed in this area to indicate ongoing dumping activity.

Surface drainage from the study area enters Herring Run to the south and Redhouse Run to the east. The course of Herring Run was channelized along the south perimeter of the study area after 1953 and a wall was built across the wetland area southeast of the study area for unknown purposes. This general area contains remnant channels and wetland areas and the exact pattern of drainage cannot be determined.

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Figure 6. 68th Street Dump, May 18, 1964. Approximate scale 1:8,660.

OCTOBER 1968 (FIGURE 7)

The 68th Street Dump continues to be active. The mound of light-toned fill at the west end of the site has expanded in size and height since 1964 (Annotation A). The mounded darker-toned material, fill, and debris also extends into the central portion of the site where it is starting to become revegetated (Annotation B), indicating a cessation of dumping in this area.

Since 1964 the small mound of light-toned fill and debris deposited in the east-central portion of the site has been enlarged into a crescent-shaped mound (Annotation C). This large mound is currently covered with new vegetation and no ongoing dumping activity is noted.

The radio facility and its three antenna towers have been partially enclosed by the large crescent shaped mound. The radio facility, in the hollow of the crescent mound, is now situated in a small wetland and appears to remain operational.

Since 1964 dumping of fill and debris has also occurred between the radio facility and the incinerator resulting in another large mound. The new mound now occupies the same area where a small pile of dark-toned material was noted in 1964 (Annotation D & E). Two piles of light-toned material have been dumped on both sides of the incinerator.

The equipment storage yard south of the incinerator, discussed in 1964, is absent. This area is now occupied by the adjacent building that has been enlarged (Annotated Enlarged Building). The adjacent parking on the east side of the enlarged building has also been expanded. More vehicles are present in this portion of the site as compared to 1968.

The embankment on the west side of Redhouse Run has been filled to create more parking space and equipment storage yards (Annotation G). The housekeeping on the east side of the site appears poor; the area is littered with accumulations of debris and derelict equipment. Potentially contaminated runoff leaving this littered portion of the site drains into Redhouse Run.

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Figure 7. 68th Street Dump, October 1968. Approximate scale 1:8,000.

JUNE 1973 (FIGURE 8)

The site's far western edge has been transformed by construction activity into the structures of bridges, overpasses, and ramps of Interstate Route 95 (Annotation A). Additional dumping of light-toned fill has continued and now occupies the central portion of the site (Annotation B). Numerous vehicle trails into this portion of the site are visible.

Piles of light-toned material are observed on the crescent-shaped mound in the central portion and indicate continued dumping has occurred in this area (Annotation C). The radio facility adjacent to the crescent shaped mound continues to appear operational (Annotations T1, T2, T3). A pond has formed next to the radio facility.

Dumping of dark-toned material has continued on the east side of the site, west and south of the incinerator (Annotations D & E). This area, now raised above the level of Herring Run, has become an open storage yard for numerous scattered containers and accumulations of debris.

Additional fill has been hauled and dumped along the west bank of Redhouse Run at the east end of the site (Annotations F & G). These areas have also been built up and are now occupied by numerous vehicles, trailers, equipment, containers, and debris. Runoff leaving this littered portion of the site drains into Redhouse Run.

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Figure 8. 68th Street Dump, June 1973. Approximate scale 1:9,000.

NOVEMBER 3, 1984 (FIGURE 9)

The lack of stereo photo coverage for this year of photography precludes a complete analysis. The highway bridges and most of the ramps of Interstate Route 95 have been completed and the highway is now open (Annotation A). There are no signs of ongoing dumping and the western portion of the site has become revegetated. There are foundations for future ramps onto Interstate Route 95 that have not been put into service. Trails extend from these unopened ramps into the west end of the 68th Street Dump (Annotation B).

There is no visible sign of ongoing dumping of fill or solid waste in the east-central portion of the site (Annotation C). The antenna towers reported at the radio facility in 1973 are absent. Another set of antenna towers appear to be installed on top of the mound south of the pond (Annotation T4) and a dish antenna (Annotation T5) has been installed at the radio facility.

The incinerator is still present; however, the previously reported mounds of light and dark-toned material next to the incinerator are absent (Annotation D). Numerous crates or boxes are piled next to the incinerator.

Several vehicles are parked at the enlarged building south of the incinerator. The storage yard next to the building is filled with trailers and containers (Annotation E).

The building north of the incinerator is partially dismantled. Two horizontal storage tanks have been installed on the northwest side of this building. The eastern side of the site, overlooking Redhouse Run, has become revegetated (Annotation F). Numerous trailers and containers line the parking areas on this side of the site directly adjacent to Redhouse Run (Annotation G).

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Figure 9. 68th Street Dump, November 3, 1984. Approximate scale 1:10,450.

MAY 1992 (FIGURE 10)

Since 1984 no significant changes are noted at the west side of the site now occupied by Interstate Route 95 (Annotation A). There are no visible signs of solid waste or debris disposal on the west side of the site. The previously reported trails into the central portion of the site are still visible (Annotation B).

The dish antenna (Annotation T5) reported in 1984 is present but the radio facility appears overgrown by vegetation (Annotation T1). The new antenna towers reported in 1984 are still present (Annotation T4). Vegetation cover continues to extend over former disturbed areas and on the mounds deposited in the central portion of the 68th Street Dump site (Annotation C).

The incinerator has been dismantled and the mound around the former incinerator has been removed (Annotation D). The building south of the former incinerator continues to be surrounded by numerous trailers, trucks, and containers (Annotation E).

Since 1984 additional dumping of light-toned material, possibly fill, has occurred on the north side of the building north of the former incinerator (Annotation F). This mounded material has partially covered a horizontal storage tank reported in 1984. A vertical tank has been constructed in this area. Numerous truck trailers have been parked in an irregular manner in this northeast corner of the site.

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Figure 10. 68th Street Dump, May 1992. Approximate scale 1:8,570.

REFERENCES

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

Figures	Date of acquisition	Original scale	Film type*	Photo source	Photo I.D.	Source Frame #	EPIC Frame #
3	04-23-38	1:20,000	B&W	NARA[1]	AJO	8-144	N/A
4	04-25-43	1:24,000	B&W	NARA	AJO	7-145	N/A
5	02-14-53	1:20,000	B&W	ASCS[2]	AJO	8K-146	N/A
6	05-18-64	1:20,000	B&W	ASCS	AJO	-	N/A
7	10-00-68	1:24,000	B&W	AIRPHO[3]	V6810	58	N/A
8	06-00-73	1:20,000	B&W	AIRPHO	V736	192	N/A
9	11-03-84	1:24,000	CC	EPIC[4]	-	-	84-142:3201
10	05-00-92	1:24,000	B&W	AIRPHO	VS925	35-68	N/A

*Film type identification:
B&W: Black-and-white
CC: Conventional Color

MAPS:

Source	Name	Scale	Date
USGS[5]	Baltimore East	1:24,000	1974

[1]NARA: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

[2]ASCS: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Salt Lake City, Utah

[3]AIRPHO: Air Photographics, Inc., Martinsburg, Virginia

[4]EPIC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center, Reston, Virginia

[5]USGS: U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia